

# 30 YEARS OF SERVICE



**THIRTY YEARS OF SOCIAL IMPACT**  
The annual report of the  
Foundation for the Welfare of Holocaust Victims

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**January 2024**

# For as long as they need us

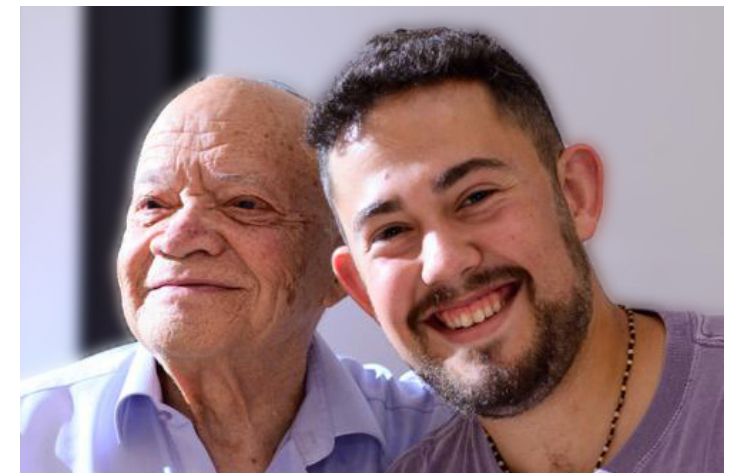
There are 140,000 Holocaust survivors living in Israel today. Their average age is 85.7.

The scale and scope of their needs increase steadily as they face their final years.

At the Foundation for the Welfare of Holocaust Victims, we plan and implement support solutions that address the individual needs of any survivor in Israel.

In 2023 we offered a helping hand 152,558 times to survivors throughout Israel. Since October 7, we did so an additional 25,546 times to address war-related needs.

This year marks 30 years of caring for the daily needs of survivors. On this occasion we would like to take the opportunity to express our appreciation to our founding members, themselves survivors, who established this organization for the benefit of other survivors. Their work, which began in 1994, continues to this day and will continue for so long as there are Holocaust survivors among us!







# October 7th and its aftermath

On October 7, 2023 Hamas carried out the deadliest one-day attack on Jews since the Holocaust. The aftermath of October 7 presented a myriad of new challenges surrounding the needs of Holocaust survivors, many of them related to Israel being at war.

We responded to these needs from day one, and the numbers in this report reflect the breadth of our impact under fire, with thousands of Israelis becoming refugees in their own country – among them Holocaust survivors.

132,000

shekels made available  
to assist with costs

12,000

phone calls made

6,000

food packages distributed

2,500

emergency safe-room  
kits distributed

1,160

survivors assisted by our  
social workers

1,290

crafts and activity kits  
distributed

750

home visits made

824

hot meals distributed

800

blankets distributed

200

private hygiene  
packages distributed

We provided additional war-related services to survivors, including personal visits to alleviate isolation among evacuees, and to monitor their wellbeing.

Tablets were distributed to survivors across Israel so they could join the online communities we launched to promote emotional resilience.

And we offered grief counseling to survivors, to our volunteers, and to their families.

# “I want to go back and rebuild”

Holocaust survivor Ruth Haran is a member of Kibbutz Be’eri, and was at home when Hamas attacked the kibbutz in the early hours of October 7. Her son, Avshalom, was slaughtered, and six other family members, among them children, were taken hostage.

“I live alone in a small apartment on the kibbutz. On the morning of October 7 I called everyone in the family but no one answered,” recalls Ruth. “I went into the safe room and waited. About 10 hours later soldiers arrived to evacuate me.

“My heart was slowly breaking, I couldn’t breathe. I told my granddaughter I would go and stay with her in Be’er Sheva.”

At the Foundation, we immediately provided Ruth with a social worker who specializes in survivor care. She assists Ruth with endless practical issues that are the direct result of becoming a refugee, and helps her slowly process the brutal death of her son as she waits for her relatives to be released from Gaza.

From experience we know that the traumatic events of October 7 will likely trigger past traumas in Ruth, and we are there to ensure that she feels protected and safe throughout this horrific period.



In 2023 we answered 152,558 day-today needs of 81,000 survivors (unrelated to the war)

## Nursing Care



57,319

survivors received long-term nursing care



621

survivors received short-term nursing care

## Health and Personal Care



453

subsidized dental treatments made available



1,499

eye examinations and eyeglasses fitted



2,375

food packages distributed



649

adult care packages distributed



217

medical equipment distributed



9,663

panic buttons installed



66,263

telephone inquiries handled



133

homes made accessible



2,184

acute emergency needs met



698

individualized equipment packages distributed



313

appliances distributed



170

survivors received financial assistance



349

utility bills paid



207

blankets and other items distributed



Companionship



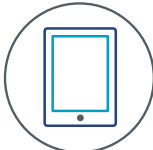
2,194

survivors received weekly one-on-one home visits from volunteers



2,184

acute emergency needs met by our special volunteer unit



450

survivors received tablets and hands-on training



400

survivors regularly visited by high school students



1,068

survivor birthdays celebrated with volunteers



2,972

survivors were visited by soldiers on Holocaust Remembrance Day

Welfare and Social Support



3,701

survivors seen by our social workers



727

survivors with mental health challenges received support

A special connection, despite the years

Aviva Yakar is a holocaust survivor in her eighties who has for years participated in our "Connected" program (developed in collaboration with Ort and the Ministry of Welfare), which strengthens the intergenerational bond between survivors and high-school students, thereby alleviating loneliness among survivors. The student assigned to Aviva was a young Shay Aros, who visited her regularly and with whom she formed a close bond.

"Even though there were 60 years between us, Shay and I connected and became friends," recalls Aviva. "He was a wonderful boy; he would come over, and we would laugh together. We'd have coffee and cake, and he would even bring me cakes he had baked himself. He came over on his bike to bring me a big, beautiful cake for my 75th birthday. It's difficult to describe how deeply that touched me. The cake had a picture of the two of us printed on it and a dedication: 'Happy Birthday, My Queen.'

"Even after Shay began his military service he continued to visit me. He came in uniform, and I hugged him so hard and asked him and God to keep him safe."

Tragically, Shay's short life was cut short on October 31 when, in a battle in northern Gaza, he was killed in action.

"He had so many plans. He wanted to succeed and make his parents proud. But God had other plans for him."



OUR PARTNERS

We are deeply grateful to our valued partners, whose support allows us to assist tens of thousands of Holocaust survivors each year, enabling them to grow old with dignity and in comfort.

Major Partners

The Holocaust Survivors' Rights Authority  
The Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany (Claims Conference)

Significant Supporters

The Alfred Landecker Foundation	Keren Hayesod – United Israel Appeal
The Azrieli Foundation	The National Insurance Institute Funds
Bank Leumi	Mega Or Holdings
Fondation Pour La Mémoire de la Shoah, France	Matan – United Way
Foundation Remembrance, Responsibility and Future (EVZ)	The Marcy Gringlas and Joel Greenberg, Seed the Dream Foundation
Gav Yam	The Ministry of Health
The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation	The Ministry of Justice
The International Fellowship of Christians and Jews	The Ministry of Welfare and Social Affairs
Jewish Federation of Broward County	Mivne Group
Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia	The Orenstein Project
Jewish Federations of North America	The Orion Foundation
Jewish National Fund	Perion Network
Jewish United Fund – Chicago	Round-up
JNF UK	The Ted Arison Family Foundation (Israel)
	Vision for Israel
	UJA – Federation of New York

Essential Volunteering Force

Israel Border Police	Israel Aerospace Industries
Israel Police	Google Israel Ltd.
Israel Defense Forces (IDF)	Rafael Advanced Defense Systems
ORT Israel	Internet Binat
FIDF IMPACT! Program	Cognyte
Applied Materials	

Your support allows us to address the challenges Holocaust survivors face in their final years.

Our critical services offer a lifeline to Holocaust survivors throughout Israel.

**Join us now to make sure that all the Holocaust survivors in Israel get what they need – particularly during this unprecedented period.**

Ours is a noble cause and a valuable mission – but we can only accomplish it with your support!

Please support us to help Holocaust survivors in their final years!

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We continue to care for every Holocaust survivor in Israel –  
wherever they are, whatever they need!



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[www.k-shoa.org](http://www.k-shoa.org)